
CHAPTER 3: THE NLSY79 YOUNG ADULTS

By the 1994 round of the NLSY79 survey, substantial numbers of the children of NLSY79 mothers had reached at least mid-adolescence. Because of the enormous potential for furthering research possibilities with the NLSY79 cohort and their offspring, the decision was made to separate these older children into a third NLSY79 component, called the Young Adult. This chapter will discuss sample issues that affect the Young Adult survey, the content and structure of the survey instrument and its historical evolution, data quality issues, and constructed variables.

Beginning in 1994, the NLSY79 children who were 15 and older by the end of a survey year were no longer given cognitive and other assessments, but instead received a more standard Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) survey. This Young Adult CAPI questionnaire focuses on the transition to adulthood, with detailed questions on education, employment, training, health, family experiences, attitudes, interactions with other family members, substance use, sexual activity, non-normative activities, computer use, health problems, and prosocial behavior. Many of the questions in the Young Adult survey parallel those that have been asked of their mothers over the years, particularly when their mothers' had been at comparable life cycle points. The Young Adult survey, however, contains more in depth data for areas such as sexual activity, drug use, schooling activities, attitudes, and marriage and cohabitation history. The primary interview mode for the 1994 through 1998 survey rounds was in-person interviewing; however, beginning with the 2000 survey round the primary mode has shifted to telephone interviewing.

Not all older children represented in the child file are eligible to be fielded as Young Adults, because the child file includes all children known to have been born to NLSY79 mothers. The older children of mothers in the no longer interviewed military and poor white oversamples are in the child file but are ineligible to be interviewed as Young Adults. Additionally, children who have either no or only one or two assessment points from very early in the child study, such as 1986 or 1988, and/or who have not been co-resident with their mothers at least part time are usually not fielded in the Young Adult sample even if they are age-eligible. Older children who are determined to be eligible for the Young Adult survey for a given round are said to be "fielded" in that survey year. Generally speaking, we have fielded older children who have either been assessed or interviewed in recent rounds or who are currently or were typically living with their mother either full or part time. Of course, not all of the children we field as Young Adults get interviewed. Mothers may refuse to allow younger Young Adults (under age 18) to be interviewed, the Young Adults themselves may refuse, or they may be unlocatable.

In 1994 and 1996, the Young Adult sample included all children who were age 15 and over by December 31 of that year and who met the other selection criteria. Due to budgetary constraints, the Young Adult sample in 1998 was limited to those through age 20 as of the interview date. With additional funding through a grant from NICHD, in 2000 and 2002 the sample again included young adults aged 21 and older as well as those aged 15 to 20. In 2000 *only*, around 40% of the black and Hispanic oversample cases between the ages of 15 and 20 were not fielded for budgetary reasons. These young adults were once again eligible to be interviewed in 2002.

Table 3.1 shows the pattern of Young Adult interviews for the 1994 through 2002 survey rounds. When the Young Adult Survey was first fielded in 1994, 1111 older children were identified to be eligible for the Young Adult survey. Of the 1111 fielded in 1994, interviews were conducted with 980 Young Adults. The Young Adults interviewed in the 1994 survey round were disproportionately Black and Hispanic and born to younger mothers. By 2002, we fielded 5095 Young Adults and secured interviews with 4238 Young Adults.

Table 3.1 NLSY79 Young Adults Interviewed 1994-2002 by Age and Race/Ethnicity

	Age at Interview											Total
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23-25	26-29	
1994												
Hispanic	23	63	47	28	26	12	6	2				207
Black	57	115	92	74	64	42	16	12	2	1		475
White	40	95	55	44	38	17	5	3		1		298
Total	120	273	194	145	128	71	27	17	2	2		980
1996												
Hispanic	51	81	69	54	41	31	15	12	2	1		357
Black	80	136	142	108	91	60	62	32	15	12		739
White	79	141	129	70	66	41	34	11	6	2		576
Total	210	358	340	232	198	132	108	55	23	15		1672
1998												
Hispanic	58	102	107	81	73	50	37	5				515
Black	80	163	150	134	141	93	87	5				853
White	90	176	148	127	111	64	54	5				775
Total	228	441	405	342	325	207	180	15				2143
2000												
Hispanic	44	64	79	70	68	56	62	63	43	67	8	624
Black	63	102	106	106	112	82	127	103	89	179	31	1100
White	114	212	168	173	139	137	121	76	61	88	12	1301
Total	221	378	353	349	319	275	310	242	193	334	51	3025
2002												
Hispanic	64	94	106	91	93	91	106	82	74	123	39	963
Black	76	124	137	123	157	151	146	142	150	254	130	1590
White	136	181	212	197	165	164	158	128	123	169	52	1685
Total	276	399	455	411	415	406	410	352	347	546	221	4238

Note: In 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002, a respondent must have attained the age of 15 by the end of the survey year to be included in the Young Adult survey. In 1998 only, an additional age restriction was imposed: respondents had to be under 21 by the date of interview. A decision was made to retain data from the 15 Young Adults who were inadvertently interviewed even though they had already turned 21. In 2000, approximately 40 percent of black and Hispanic oversample cases between age 15 and 20 were not fielded.

By 2002, the racial mixture of Young Adults is more closely approximating the overall mixture in the child file. Table 3.2 illustrates the distribution of young adults at various ages by the age of the mother at the young adult's birth, also broken out by the mother's race. As can be seen, as children continue to age up into the Young Adult sample, the Young Adult

sample becomes increasingly heterogeneous. The younger young adults are more likely to have been born to older women and are less likely to be minority births (see Chapter 1 for a fuller discussion of the NLSY79 Child and Young Adult samples).

Table 3.2. Young Adult Age at 2002 Interview by Age of Mother at Birth of Young Adult and by Race/Ethnicity

Age of YA	Age of Mother at Child's Birth							Total	Mean
	11-13	14-16	17-19	20-22	23-25	26-29	30+		
All Young Adults									
14-17	0	0	6	344	595	580	16	1541	24.6
18-20	0	1	275	506	406	46	0	1231	21.5
21-24	0	126	517	426	47	0	0	1116	19.0
25+	5	147	195	3	0	0	0	350	16.7
Total	5	274	993	1279	1048	623	16	4238	21.6
Hispanic Mother									
14-17	0	0	2	81	141	127	4	539	24.6
18-20	0	1	72	114	92	11	0	290	21.4
21-24	0	25	120	93	12	0	0	250	19.1
25+	0	29	39	0	0	0	0	68	16.8
Total	0	55	233	288	245	138	4	963	21.7
Black Mother									
14-17	0	0	3	129	186	139	3	460	24.2
18-20	0	0	110	200	132	12	0	454	21.3
21-24	0	70	235	161	15	0	0	481	18.7
25+	5	90	99	1	0	0	0	195	16.5
Total	5	160	447	491	333	151	3	1590	20.8
Non-Black, Non-Hispanic Mother									
14-17	0	0	1	134	268	314	9	726	24.8
18-20	0	0	93	192	182	20	0	487	21.8
21-24	0	31	162	172	20	0	0	385	19.4
25+	0	28	57	2	0	0	0	87	17.1
Total	0	59	313	500	470	334	9	1685	22.4

Although the child interview years have focused on children who were co-resident with their mothers, as children age up into the Young Adult sample and enter into various stages of their transition to adulthood, they are eligible to be interviewed even if they are not living with their mothers. Thus, their types of residence, not surprisingly, become increasingly diverse. Table 3.3 shows the type of dwelling for Young Adults interviewed in 2002 by their age at interview. As they age, they are more likely to live in their own residence and less likely to live with parents or other relatives.

Table 3.3. Young Adult Age at 2002 Interview by Type of Dwelling Unit

Type of Dwelling	Young Adult Age in Years											Total
	14-16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26+	
Own Household	1	10	38	109	110	159	178	128	132	90	155	1110
Parents' Household	551	156	127	102	98	52	47	23	8	4	8	1176
Mother's Household	484	185	183	132	129	89	66	38	25	18	28	1377
Father's Household	50	29	16	15	23	8	12	3	3	2	1	162
Joint Custody	8	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Relative's Household	30	21	25	25	21	32	27	22	15	9	16	243
Temporary Housing	3	3	15	10	10	4	7	5	2	0	1	60
Military Housing	0	0	1	9	12	3	5	0	0	3	1	34
Jail	3	4	6	3	7	5	5	4	9	3	11	60
Total	1130	411	415	406	410	352	347	223	194	129	221	4238

As has been highlighted in Chapter 1 and will be discussed in greater detail in Chapter 4, one of the strengths of this data set is the presence of sibling pairs within the data. Table 3.4 highlights this strength by showing for Young Adults interviewed in 2002 the number of siblings they have who were also interviewed in 2002. Most of these siblings will also have been interviewed in past rounds, giving researchers ample data to carry out rich within-family analyses.

Table 3.4. Siblings of Young Adults Interviewed in 2002

Type of Sibling	Total Interviewed in 2002				
	None	Any Sibs?	One Sib	Two Sibs	Three+ Sibs
All Siblings	474	3,764	1,489	1,251	1,024
YA Siblings	1,054	3,184	1,762	921	501
Child Siblings	2,636	1,602	1,047	412	143

The Young Adult Survey Instrument Structure and Contents

When the Young Adult survey was first designed for the 1994 survey round, many of the CAPI sections were made exactly parallel to those administered to the main NLSY79 respondents. However, other sections of the questionnaire were tailored for this age group. One important part of the design process was to review the NLSY79 1979 questionnaire, to consider where Young Adults could be asked questions that were essentially the same as those asked of their mothers in their first survey round. Additionally, other years of the NLSY79 were reviewed for questions to include. The Young Adult questionnaire remained fairly stable as an instrument through the 1998 fielding, with changes in parallel sections mirroring those in the NLSY79 Youth.

The 2000 Young Adult survey instrument underwent a major redesign and differs in a variety of important ways not only from the main Youth questionnaire, but also from the previous Young Adult instruments. The questionnaire was streamlined and adjusted for telephone

administration, so that most interviews were, on average, less than one hour. Additionally, more pre-existing information was incorporated into the information sheets to determine branching for each respondent's path through the questionnaire. Branching also occurred throughout the questionnaire based on the answers provided by the respondent. However, many of the items that are comparable across the main Youth and the Young Adult were retained. Although not an exclusive listing of these items, Table 3.5 provides users with a listing of attitudinal and behavioral sequences where comparable data can be found for mothers and young adults. The 2002 survey instrument was very similar to the 2000 questionnaire.

Table 3.5. Selected Attitudinal/Behavioral Sequences Available for Mothers and Young Adults

Question Sequence	Mothers	YA 1994	YA 1996	YA 1998	YA 2000	YA 2002
Attitudinal						
Job Satisfaction	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fertility Desires/Expectations	X	X	X	X	X	X
Educational Desires/Expectations	X	X	X	X	X	X
Career Expectations	X (Women)	X	X	X	X	X
Marriage Expectations	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pregnancy "Wantedness"	x	X	X	X	X	X
Women's' Roles Scores	X	X	X	X		
Relationship "Quality"	X	X	X	X	X	X
Locus of Control	Rotter, Pearlin	Pearlin	Pearlin	Pearlin	Pearlin	Pearlin
Rosenberg Self-Esteem	X	X	X	X	X	X
Depression Scale (CES-D)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Behavioral						
Religion	X	X	X	X	X	X
Police Contact	X	X	X	X	X	X
Delinquency	X	X	X	X	X	X
School Discipline	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Alcohol</i>						
Ever?	X	X	X	X	X	X
Age First?	X	X	X	X	X	X
Frequency	X	X	X	X	X	X
Intensity	X	X	X	X	X	X
Location	X	X	x	x		
<i>Marijuana</i>						
Age first	X	X	X	X	X	X
Age last	X	Recency	Recency	Recency	Recency	Recency
Lifetime frequency	X	X	X	X		
30 day frequency	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Cocaine ("Crack" separate in 92, 94)</i>						
Age first	X	X	X	X	X	X
Age last	X	Recency	Recency	Recency	Recency	Recency
30 day frequency	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lifetime frequency	X	X	X	X		
<i>"Other" Drugs</i>						
Lifetime frequency	(laundry list)	(more detail)				
Age first/last	x	x	x	x		
30 day frequency	X	X/Recency	X/Recency	X/Recency	X/Recency	X/Recency
Ever?	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Cigarettes</i>						
Ever?	X	X	X	X	X	X
Age first?	X	X	X	X	X	X
Frequency	X	X	X	X	X	X
Intensity	X	X	X	X	X	X
Age Last	X	Recency	Recency	Recency	Recency	Recency

Note: Pearlin = Pearlin Mastery Scale and CES-D = Center for Epidemiologic Studies of Depression Scale

The following outline briefly describes the contents of each section of the 2002 Young Adult survey instrument and highlights changes in that section over time. Users who want a visual representation of the flow of respondents through the questionnaire can review Appendix I. The flow chart in this appendix provides a very general overview of the content of each section as well as the general path of respondents through each section. To fully understand the survey flow, however, users are encouraged to read the description of each section below, as well as consulting either the printed or the HTML version of the CAPI questionnaire. Please note that the HTML version is hyperlinked, allowing users to easily follow survey paths that various respondents might take. Additionally, Appendix J provides a topical listing of the kinds of variables available in the Young Adult data. Again, users should consult the questionnaire from each year to find out exact question wording as well as respondent universes. Questionnaires can be downloaded from the NLS web site (see discussion in Chapter 5) in either a PDF format (for 1994-1998) or an HTML format (2000-2002).

Generally speaking, the CAPI data that is released is largely unedited. Exceptions to this pattern are discussed in the relevant sections. Users should note that all the names of the areas of interest for Young Adult data are preceded by “YA.” Although many of the areas of interest are almost identical to the section names, there are exceptions to this pattern. Table 3.6 provides a summary of the areas of interest in the order in which they appear in the extraction software and a description of their contents.

Table 3.6. Young Adult Areas of Interest

Area of Interest	Description
YA ATTITUDES	Contains data from Section 16 for 1994-2002
YA BETWEEN JOBS	Contains data from Section 8 (Gaps) for 1994-1998
YA BIRTH RECORD 1994	Contains data from the 1994 fertility section (Section 12)
YA BIRTH RECORD 1996	Contains data from the 1996 fertility section (Section 12)
YA BIRTH RECORD 1998	Contains data from the 1998 fertility section (Section 12)
YA BIRTH RECORD 2000	Contains data from the 2000 fertility section (Section 12)
YA CHILD CARE	Contains data from Section 13 for 1994-2002
YA CHILDRENS RECORD FORM BIOLOGICAL	Contains raw biological child roster data for 1994-2002
YA COMMON KEY VARIABLES	Contains commonly used variables from all YA years as well as constructed summary variables and cleaned biological child variables
YA CPS	Contains data from Section 6 (CPS) for 1994-98
YA DATING AND MARRIAGE	Contains data from Section 3 for 1994-2002
YA FAMILY BACKGROUND	Contains data from Section 2 for 1994-2002
YA FIRST JOB AFTER HIGH SCHOOL	Contains data from Section 10 for 1994-2002
YA GEOCODE 1994	Contains constructed geocode variables for 1994 (Available only on Geocode release)
YA GEOCODE 1996	Contains constructed geocode variables for 1996 (Available only on Geocode release)
YA GEOCODE 1998	Contains constructed geocode variables for 1998 (Available only on Geocode release)
YA GEOCODE 2000	Contains constructed geocode variables for 2000 (Available only on Geocode release)
YA GEOCODE 2002	Contains constructed geocode variables for 2002 (Available only on Geocode release)
YA HEALTH	Contains data from Section 14 for 1994-2002
YA HOUSEHOLD RECORD	Contains final (cleaned) household rosters and selected items from Section 1 for 1994-2002
YA INCOME	Contains data from Section 15 for 1994-2002
YA INTERVIEWER REMARKS	Contains selected data from the Interviewer Remarks Section for 1994-2002
YA JOB INFORMATION	Contains data on job characteristics collected in the Employer Supplements for 1994-2002 and Section 7 for 2000-2002
YA JOBS	Contains basic job data collected in Section 7 for 1994-1998
YA LAST JOB	Contains data from Section 9 for 1994-2002
YA MILITARY	Contains data from Section 5 for 1994-2002
YA SCHOOL	Contains data from Section 4 for 1994-2002
YA SELF REPORT	Contains data from the YASRB for 1994-1998 and the YASR section for 2000-2002
YA TRAINING	Contains data from Section 11 for 1994-2002

Section 1: Household Interview

The household interview for the Young Adult questionnaire closely parallels that of the NLS main Youth; however, no pre-existing information is incorporated into this section. Each

young adult goes through this section as though this were a new household, even if the young adult is living in the NLSY79 mother's household. The questionnaire first establishes the type of dwelling that best describes the young adult's current usual living arrangement. Because type of residence is critical to maintain appropriate branching throughout the survey, the redesign for 2000, maintained in 2002, streamlined this process. The survey asks about biological parental presence; if the young adult resides with neither biological parent, the survey then asks for usual living arrangements. Questions are then asked about the identification, gender (if necessary), age, and relationship to the young adult of each person usually living in the household. Prior to 2000, questions concerning the highest grade completed and work of household members were also asked; these were eliminated in the process of streamlining the questionnaire. A limited amount of information is collected on the type and location of the residence.

The public release version of the questionnaire allows users to see the way in which these data were collected from the respondent. However, the data that are made available to the user come from the final household roster. The final roster is thoroughly cleaned prior to release to ensure that users have access to the most accurate household data we can provide on the young adults. A few data elements from this section, along with the final household roster, are available in the YA HOUSEHOLD RECORD area of interest. It is important for users to note that even when the young adult is living with their mother, the mother's version of household composition and the young adult's version may not correspond. This can occur because one or the other omitted members or because interview dates were different. No attempt is made to reconcile across mother's and young adult's household records.

Section 2: Family Background

The family background section is designed to gather information about family characteristics and transitions and includes a variety of types of questions depending on each respondent's situation. Respondents are branched in this section based on whether they are living with their mother, with both parents, on their own, or in some other living arrangement as well as on their age and their interview status in past Young Adult rounds.

The family background section begins with a migration sequence, which was expanded in 2000 to include up to two moves since the date of last interview as well as a summary measure of number of moves for people indicating more than two moves. Also added in 2000 were questions aimed at older young adults to identify whether or not there was movement into or out of the mother's household, as well as a question concerning homelessness. Beginning in 2002, these questions were asked of all YA respondents regardless of age.

First-time Young Adults are asked to verify their date of birth and self-identify their race and ethnic background as well as their father's race. The pattern of which young adults were asked race and ethnicity has differed across survey rounds as has the structure of the questions asked. In 1994, all YA respondents were asked both a six-category race question [Black, White (non-Hispanic), Hispanic, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander, or Other (SPECIFY)] as well as a detailed ethnic identification question parallel to that asked of their mothers in 1979. In 1996, young adults not interviewed in 1994 were asked the same two questions. In 1998, all young adults were branched into the race questions because the structure of the race questions was changed significantly. Respondents were initially asked a

yes/no question about whether they were of Hispanic origin, followed by a six-category question asking whether they considered themselves White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander or Other (SPECIFY). Additionally, the category of “American Indian or Native American” in the detailed ethnicity question was changed to “American Indian” beginning in 1998 in order to reduce confusion on the part of respondents. In both 2000 and 2002, only new young adults were asked the race and ethnicity questions; however, beginning in 2000, the six-category race question was asked as a code all that apply.

Younger young adults not living with their mother are asked when and why they left home for both the most recent and, if applicable, the first time. These younger young adults are also asked about their father’s work and education, and all young adults not living with parents are asked the amount and type of contact they have with their parent(s).

All young adults are asked about religious affiliation and attendance, as well as the importance of religion to them. Data from this section are contained in the YA FAMILY BACKGROUND area of interest.

Section 3: Dating and Relationship History

This section of the questionnaire collects detailed marriage and cohabitation histories, with comparable series for spouses and partners, as well as information about dating behavior. A young adult’s path through this section is determined initially by whether the particular respondent has ever been interviewed as a young adult and, if so, whether the respondent was married or cohabiting at the last survey point.

For Young Adults who were married or cohabiting at their last interview point, information on that relationship is updated. If the relationship is still on-going, spouse/partner characteristics and employment are updated and relationship quality is assessed. If the relationship has ended, information about the termination is collected, and the respondent then enters the sequence to determine current marital status and any additional marriages or cohabitations since the date of last interview.

In most survey years, new young adults and young adults who have not previously reported dating activity are asked about whether and when they began dating. For 2000 *only*, we re-asked all young adults these dating questions, in order to have a point of comparison between in-person and telephone administration. Younger young adults also answer two questions about the number of close friends who are girls and who are boys. These questions had also been asked of these young adults prior to age 15.

After the dating questions, respondents then enter a sequence to determine current marital status and marriage/cohabitation histories. All young adults, except those whose relationships from their past interview point are still current, have their current marital status established and are asked about marriages/cohabitations since the date of last interview.

Any young adult who reports a current or past marriage or cohabitation answers a series of questions about the timing of each relationship and certain characteristics of the spouse/partner, including race, religion, age and highest grade completed. Young Adults who

report a current spouse or partner are also asked questions about that person's employment and about the quality of the relationship.

Young Adults who are not in a current marriage or cohabitation are asked detailed questions about current dating behavior and, if they date only one person, about relationship quality. These young adults, as well as those reporting that they have never been married and no dating behavior, are asked two questions about ideal romantic relationships.

Data from this section are available in the YA DATING AND MARRIAGE area of interest.

Section 4: Regular Schooling

This section asks about enrollment status, school experiences, and educational aspirations. All respondents are asked if they are currently enrolled. Older young adults who are not currently enrolled are asked if they have been enrolled at all since the date of last interview. For most older Young Adults who say no, this is the exit point from Section 4. However, if no high school diploma or GED has previously been reported, we ask whether one has been obtained. Also, older respondents who were attending college at their last interview point are asked about degree completion even if they report no enrollment since the date of last interview.

Those who are currently enrolled or who have reported school attendance since the date of last interview, as well as younger Young Adults who are not currently enrolled, are asked a wide range of questions concerning their education. First time respondents answer core questions about repeating or skipping grades and dropping out. Additionally, there are special questions on (1) school quality and time spent on homework, as well as practices used by teachers and parental involvement in homework and the school community, for respondents currently in grades 1-12, (2) the use of career planning or college preparation services by respondents who are high school juniors or seniors, (3) the names of colleges and/or universities applied to and whether or not the respondent was accepted to them for respondents in twelfth grade or first year in college, and (4) the name, type of school, major, degree receipt and financial assistance for college students. Respondents are branched throughout this section according to both enrollment status and highest grade completed. Not all questions in the 2002 schooling section are available for all years. The questions concerning time spent on homework, practices used by teachers, and parental involvement in homework and the school community were added to this section in 1996 and continue to be asked. The sequence concerning colleges applied to and accepted at was added for the first time in 2000.

The data released to the public from this section are available in the YA SCHOOL area of interest. FICE codes for colleges/universities attended or applied to are available only on the Geocode release, in the YA GEOCODE area of interest for each year (see discussion of Geocode variables below).

Section 5: Military

This section establishes a history of military service, with detailed questions asked about up to two periods of service. Young adults who are over the age of 16 enter this section and are

asked, depending on their previous YA interview status, either whether they have ever (for first time Young Adults) or since date of last interview (for previously interviewed Young Adults) been enlisted or sworn into any military branch. This section is similar to the military section in the NLS main Youth; however, the questions in the Young Adult ask greater detail about military jobs and training. This section determines which branches the Young Adult has been sworn into and the time period of service. These questions accommodate delayed entry programs and have questions tailored to respondents in the reserves or on active duty. There are also questions that ask about the most recent military job and training. The Young Adult is asked about schooling prior to and during their service. These data can be found in the YA MILITARY area of interest.

Section 7: Jobs and Employer Supplements

The employment sections of the Young Adult underwent a major redesign for the 2000 survey round. Prior to 2000, there were two distinct sections: the On Jobs section (Section 7) and the Employer Supplements. These two sections were virtually identical to the main Youth sections in each survey round, except for minor differences. For example, the Young Adult On Jobs section did not bring forward employers from past rounds, and the reference date for each survey round was set at January 1 of the year prior to the year of fielding. For example, the reference date for the 1994 fielding was set to January 1, 1993. Young Adults were skipped around certain sequences in the Employer Supplements, specifically those concerning severance pay, pensions, and job search methods. Additionally, the first employer supplement (which asked about current or most recent job) in the Young Adult had a short series of additional questions that asked the respondents to assess certain aspects of that job, which was developed from similar questions asked to the mothers in the original 1979 survey.

For the 2000 survey, the jobs and employer supplements sections of the Young Adult were extensively redesigned and integrated into one looped section, so that all questions concerning a particular employer would be asked before any information about a subsequent employer would be asked. Interviews were instructed to begin with the current or most recent job or the respondent and to proceed backwards in time. If multiple jobs were currently or most recently held, the interviewer was instructed to probe for the job with the greatest number of hours worked per week to determine the first job entered. This looped structure has been maintained in the 2002 survey

Information is collected on all jobs held either since the date of the last interview, if it is after January 1, 1994, or since January 1, 1994, if the date of last interview is earlier than that. The section is designed so that the greatest detail is asked of the current or most recent job. For all subsequent jobs, a smaller set of questions is asked. For jobs of short duration or less than ten hours a week, only employer name, start and stop dates, and hours are asked. Overall, the number of questions asked, even about the first job, was greatly curtailed and streamlined in order to make this section easy to administer over the telephone and to ease respondent burden. However, the streamlined questions allow users to develop a clear employment history with critical job characteristics such as industry, occupation and wages.

For the 1994 through 1998 surveys, data from Section 7 are found in the YA JOBS area of interest, while data from the Employer Supplements are found in the YA JOB INFORMATION area of interest. For the 2000 and 2002 surveys, all data from the integrated

looped section are found in the YA JOB INFORMATION area of interest, allowing users to follow question flow from the CAPI questionnaire.

Section 9: Last Job Lasting Two Weeks or More

This short section is designed to collect a small amount of employment information from respondents who were not on active duty in the military and who did not report working at any jobs since their employment reference date (see Section 7, Jobs and Employer Supplements). For respondents who are not initially skipped out of this section, the survey ascertains whether they have ever had a job for pay lasting two or more weeks. If so, basic details about this job such as tenure, industry, occupation and wages are asked. These data can be found in the YA LAST JOB area of interest.

Section 10: First Significant Job after Leaving School

This section attempts to identify the first job a respondent had after leaving high school if this job is not identifiable from other sections of the survey. Only first-time young adult respondents who have left school prior to the date of last interview (usually defined as the mother's date of last interview) are branched into this section. A respondent had to have worked at a job for at least 2 months and at least 20 hours a week in order to be eligible for detailed questions in this section. A limited number of job characteristics are asked about, including: start date, stop date, kind of business or industry, kind of work the respondent did, hours per week, and usual earnings. The data from this section is in the YA FIRST JOB AFTER HIGH SCHOOL area of interest.

Section 11: Other Training

This section collects information about training received outside of regular schooling or the military. Prior to 2000, this section collected detailed questions on up to six training experiences. As part of the 2000 redesign, the number of training programs asked about was reduced. Detailed questions are asked only about the current or most recent training program, if applicable. Respondents are asked to identify the type of training, the duration of the program, as well as the source of money to pay for the training.

Respondents are then asked for a total number of additional training programs they have attended either ever or since the date of last interview. This pattern of questions was retained for 2002. The Young Adult questionnaire also asks about certificates, licenses and journeyman's cards for practicing professions and what professions these were for. Younger young adults who are still in high school do not enter this section. These data are located in the YA TRAINING area of interest.

Section 12: Fertility

The fertility section of the Young Adult closely parallels that in main Youth. However, in the Young Adult, no information is collected about non-biological children or about pregnancies not ending in a live birth, with the exception, beginning in 2000, of first pregnancies. Prior to 2000, the questions relating to first pregnancies were contained in the Young Adult Self-Report booklet (see discussion below). In 1994 through 1998, the main Youth and Young Adult fertility sections were virtually identical except for the pregnancy and non-biological

child sequences. As part of the redesign for 2000 Young Adult survey, however, some of the detailed pre- and postnatal questions were curtailed and parenting attitude questions were added.

Female respondents who have not reported a pregnancy in a past survey round are asked if and when they have ever been pregnant. The fertility section includes two paths for collecting fertility information about live births. Previously interviewed Young Adults are asked to verify and update their fertility information. Respondents who are Young Adults for the first time in a given survey round have their complete fertility record collected. Once a biological child roster for each young adult respondent who has at least one child is completed, the young adults answers questions regarding each child's residence and contact with each parent. Young Adults with at least one child are asked a series of parenting attitude questions. Female respondents are asked a limited number of questions about the pregnancy, including behaviors that could be detrimental to the child's health, as well as the birth weight and length of the child when born, medical visits during the first year due to sickness or injury, well baby care, and breastfeeding for either all pregnancies or pregnancies since the last interview. Both male and female respondents are asked about wantedness and health insurance for their children. All respondents are asked about how many children they expect to have.

The data about pregnancies, births and the first year of life of each child that are collected in this section are available in the YA BIRTH RECORD area of interest for each survey year. However, as with the household record, there is a series of questions relating to verifying previously reported children and recording any new children that results in a roster of biological children. Data from the final roster are available in the YA CHILDRENS RECORD FORM BIOLOGICAL area of interest. Users may wish to note that in 1994 through 1998, some data cleaning was done on the data that are in the public release. Beginning in 2000 and continued for 2002, the data in this area of interest are largely unedited, and a cleaned set of dates of birth has been created for all respondents ever interviewed as Young Adults. These data were updated for 2002, with any discrepancies resolved and newly collected data integrated (see discussion under Key Variables below).

Section 13: Child Care

The child care section of the Young Adult has traditionally focused on current child care use for all children tied to the Young Adult respondent, including biological, step, adopted and/or partner's children in the household. In 1994 through 1998, questions about usual child care arrangements and hours in child care were asked about all children associated with the respondent. Beginning in 2000, however, the focus of this section shifted dramatically and the kinds of questions asked were expanded.

The questions now focus on the youngest child in the household, regardless of whether that child is step, adopted, or biological. The first series of questions in this section concern parenting behavior and are modeled after questions in the HOME section of the NLSY79 Mother Supplement (see Chapter 2 for a discussion of this instrument). These questions were developed for telephone administration and do not allow for creating an actual HOME score as is done in the NLSY79 Mother Supplement. However, the incorporation of these items provides researchers with a unique opportunity to make intergenerational comparisons of parenting behavior between the young adults and their mothers.

This section also asks detailed questions about current child care for the youngest child. It also includes questions about **total** child care expenses for all of the children associated with the respondent, as well as whether child care difficulties affected employment. Data from this section can be found in the YA CHILD CARE area of interest. Users should note that while specifics on parenting behavior and child care arrangements are only asked about the youngest child in 2000 and 2002, the roster of all children in the household who are tied to the Young Adult is available.

Section 14: Health

The health section in the Young Adult differs in several ways from the health section in the main Youth. In main Youth, the health section concentrates on work-related injuries, whereas the Young Adult health section is more general and more closely parallels the health history that has been obtained for all children of NLSY79 mothers. In this way, it can more effectively be linked with the health care information for these children that has been collected over the years.

The Young Adult health section gathers information on types of limitations, number of accidents and injuries in the last 12 months, hospitalizations resulting from these accidents/injuries, height, weight, and insurance coverage. From 1994 through 1998, detailed questions were asked about accidents and injuries in the last 12 months requiring medical attention, whether or not they resulted in hospitalization. Beginning in 2000, young adults have been asked detailed questions only about accidents and injuries resulting in hospitalization in the past 12 months.

Young Adult respondents who are not in their mother's household are asked additional questions about illnesses and routine medical care. For young adult respondents who are living in their mother's household, comparable questions are asked of the mother in the fertility section of the main Youth CAPI questionnaire.

Female young adult respondents who have not yet reported the onset of menses are asked whether menses has started and, if so, when. All the data from this section are in the YA HEALTH area of interest.

Section 15: Income and Assets

The income section for the Young Adult questionnaire was also redesigned for the 2000 survey round to streamline the flow of respondents through the section. Prior to the 2000 survey, this section closely paralleled the analogous section in main Youth; however, the main Youth had more extensive questions in areas such as interest income, filing income taxes, and income received by household members other than the respondent or spouse/partner. The Young Adult also had fewer asset questions asked of respondents than did the main Youth.

Beginning in 2000, non-emancipated respondents are asked only about their own income, their family's total income, and their sense of financial strain. All Young Adults are asked about income they have received from the military, from wages, salary, commissions, or tips, from their farm, or from non-farm business, partnership, or professional practice. Respondents who report an employment history since the date of last interview are asked if

they ever received unemployment compensation and, if so, for how many months they received it and how much they received per week for their most recent spell. Respondents who have reported no employment at all since the date of last interview are skipped around this series of questions.

Respondents who are married or who have a partner are asked about income received by their spouse or partner from the military, wages, farm, or business. They are also asked whether their spouse/partner received unemployment compensation.

For several types of reciprocity, respondents are asked if they or their spouse or partner have received it and, if so, for how long and for what amounts. The reciprocity categories are: child support, AFDC, food stamps, and supplemental security income, public assistance, or welfare payments. Finally, respondents are asked a limited number of questions about assets, debts, total family income, and financial strain. These data are contained in the YA INCOME area of interest.

Section 16: Attitudes

This section contains series of questions that have been used in previous rounds of the main Youth and the Young Adult, with skip patterns based on age and interview status. First time Young Adults as well as Young Adults who were last interviewed prior to 2000 were given the Pearlin Mastery scale, introduced into the main NLSY79 in 1992 (Pearlin et al., 1981). These Young Adults also answered a series of items from the Rosenberg self-esteem scale, also administered to their mothers in 1980 and 1987, and completed a 7-item version of the CES-D depression scale which has been used in the main Youth survey since 1992 (Rosenberg, 1965; Radloff, 1977).

In previous rounds, some young adults answered a number of questions on women's roles and family attitudes, given to the main Youth in 1979, 1982, and 1987. These questions were not administered in 2000; however, they were included in the 2002 questionnaire for young adults who were aged 17 to 18 or 23 and over. Young adults last interviewed in 2000 who did not meet this age criteria were branched directly into the Self-Report section (see next section).

Additionally, in survey years 1994 through 1998, a series of questions about the world of work, based on questions in the 1979 round of the NLSY79, were asked only of new Young Adults. The series about the respondent's knowledge of the world of work was followed by a number of items pertaining to hypothetical job offers, also asked only of new respondents. Each job offer contained a wage offer as well as a brief description of the job duties, and respondents were asked whether or not they would accept the offer. These two series were removed as part of the 2000 redesign in order to streamline the survey and accommodate telephone administration.

Table 3.7 provides a summary of the administration patterns of attitude scales across survey years. All data from this section are in the YA ATTITUDES area of interest.

Table 3.7. Administration Pattern of Attitude Scales in the Young Adult

Attitude Scale	Survey Year				
	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002
Knowledge of the World of Work	All YAs	First-time YAs	First-time YAs	Dropped	Dropped
Pearlin Mastery	All YAs	All YAs	All YAs	Those not int. in 1998	Those not int. in 2000
Rosenberg Self-Esteem	All YAs	All YAs	All YAs	Those not int. in 1998	Those not int. in 2000
Risk-Taking	In YASRB	In YASRB	In YASRB	Those not int. in 1998	Those not int. in 2000
CESD 7-item Depression	All YAs	All YAs	All YAs	Those not int. in 1998	Those not int. in 2000
Women's Roles	All YAs	Those not int. in 1994	Those not int. in 1996	Not administered	YAs 17-18, or 23 and older

Young Adult Self-Report

From 1994 through 1998, young adult respondents were asked to complete the Young Adult Self-Report Booklet (YASRB), a pencil-and-paper instrument. As part of the 2000 redesign, the questions from the YASRB were streamlined and integrated into the CAPI questionnaire. For telephone administration, the interviewer read these questions over the phone and recorded the answers. For in-person interviews, the interviewers turned the laptop around to the respondents. The respondents went through some example questions, and then responded to their actual questions. This procedure was repeated in 2002.

The length of the YASRB prohibited its wholesale conversion into the CAPI instrument. As part of the redesign process, all of the questions in the YASRB were reviewed to determine, first, whether they should be retained and, second, whether they could be incorporated elsewhere in the existing CAPI instrument or kept in a separate section. For example, the pregnancy history questions fit logically into the fertility section. Most of the questions that were retained were put into the CAPI instrument in a section called the Young Adult Self Report. However, many series were streamlined as much as possible, and many questions were converted to a format that allows telephone administration to maintain confidentiality. Additionally, the conversion to CAPI allowed for skips to be programmed so that respondents could be branched around questions based on their age, past interview status, information gathered earlier in the survey, and information previously provided.

The Young Adult Self-Report section, as well as the YASRB, includes questions about parent and child relationships, risk-taking attitudes, computer use, drug and alcohol use, cigarette use, contact with the criminal justice system, sexual activity, contraception, emotional problems, expectations, and participation in community activities.

First time Young Adults begin this section with questions about interaction patterns between the young adult and his or her parents as well as between the young adult's parents. All Young Adults are asked about closeness to both their mother and their father, unless a parent is deceased. All Young Adults also respond to a series of questions about recent and lifetime

substance use (including cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and other substances). These questions, which address actual use as well as behaviors resulting from use, are more detailed than those asked of the children age 10-14. Beginning in 2000, explicit questions about amphetamine usage were included, as was a series of questions designed to assess the impact of marijuana usage in the last 12 months. There is a series of items on computer use, very similar to the questions asked of the younger children age 10-14. The self-report section also contains questions relating to the young adult's sexual experiences including age at first intercourse, sex education, discussions with other people about sex and use of contraception. Questions about the young adult's most recent sexual partner were added beginning in 1998.

The respondents are also asked to rate their neighborhood and to indicate their future expectations about marriage, family and employment at age 35. Questions about anti-social behaviors ask for information about contact with the law, including any arrests and convictions, as well as delinquent behavior not necessarily resulting in contact with the law. Many of these items were also asked of their mothers in 1980. The section also contains a set of questions on pro-social behavior, including participation in volunteer or community organizations, and a short series on emotional problems. All data from this section can be found in the YA SELF REPORT area of interest.

Section 17: Interviewer Remarks

The interviewer remarks section has remained essentially the same across survey rounds; however, beginning in 2000, branching based on interview type was incorporated into this section. Only interviewer answers about the survey process are released to the public; these data are located in the YA INTERVIEWER REMARKS area of interest.

Deleted Sections

As part of the 2000 redesign, the decision was made to eliminate two sections that had been included in the 1994 through 1998 surveys. Below is a brief description of those sections.

Section 6, Current Labor Force Status (CPS), in the Young Adult was nearly the same as the CPS section in the NLSY79 main Youth. Young Adults not currently serving in the active military were asked about work activities during the last week. The survey determined if the respondent did any work for pay or profit or unpaid work in a family business or farm. There were questions on whether respondents had a disability that prevented them from doing work, number of jobs or businesses, and hours per week usually worked at job. If on layoff, they were asked about the duration of the layoff and job search activities. Those not working were asked about when they last worked and if they were searching for a job. Respondents were also asked about active and passive job search methods. This section was also eliminated in the main Youth survey for the 2000 fielding. The data from this section can be found in the YA CPS area of interest.

Section 8, Gaps When Not Working or in Military, in the Young Adult was the same as that in main Youth. The number and time periods of gaps when not working were determined internally from dates given by the respondent. Young Adult respondents were asked whether they were looking for work or on layoff during any gaps. If not looking for work, the respondent was asked the main reason why. This section was eliminated to facilitate the

conversion of the instrument to telephone administration and save time given the additions being made such as incorporating the YASRB into the CAPI instrument. The data from this section can be found in the YA BETWEEN JOBS area of interest.

Industry and Occupation Coding

In preparation for the public release of data for each round, all occupation and industry verbatim responses collected in the Young Adult survey are coded using Census coding frames. In 1994, the decision was made to use the 1970 coding frame, which was still in use in the main Youth data, to make the Young Adult data as directly comparable to the mother's data as possible. In addition, the CPS job, defined as the current or most recent primary job of the respondent, was coded using the 1990 coding frame. This pattern of coding was used for the 1996 and 1998 surveys as well.

For the 2000 survey, the decision was made to switch all jobs except father's occupation to the 1990 coding frame. The father's job continued to be coded using the 1970 frame to allow easy comparability with the mother's occupation. The CPS job of the respondent was coded in both the 1970 and the 1990 coding frames. As a result of that decision, the 1994 through 1998 occupation and industry verbatims that had previously been done only in the 1970 coding frame were coded again using the 1990 coding frame. As of the 2000 release, all occupation and industry verbatims, except for father's occupation, have both 1970 and 1990 Census codes available to users.

Beginning in 2002, the decision was made to code all jobs, including the father's occupation, with the 2000 Census occupation and industry coding frame. Switching to the 2000 coding frame allows for greater accuracy in occupation and industry coding given the changes in job structure over time. Although this represents a disconnect from previous years, crosswalks between the 1990 and 2000 coding frames are available.

Key Variables

In addition to the raw data and coded items available in the Young Adult data, there are a number of constructed variables, called key variables, that may be of particular interest to the user. Table 3.8 provides a listing of some of these key variables. These variables can be found in the YA COMMON KEY VARIABLES area of interest.

Table 3.8. Key Variables on the NLSY79 Young Adult Files (1994-2002): Variable Descriptions and Reference Numbers

Variable Description	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002
Identification code of Young Adult	*	*	*	*	Y00001.00
Identification code of mother of Young Adult	*	*	*	*	Y06508.00
Date of birth of Young Adult – Day ¹	*	*	*	*	Y06392.00
Date of birth of Young Adult – Month	*	*	*	*	Y06392.01
Date of birth of Young Adult – Year	*	*	*	*	Y06392.02
Sex of Young Adult	*	*	*	*	Y06774.00
Race of Young Adult (mother's racial/ethnic cohort from screener)	*	*	*	*	Y06775.00
Year of most recent Young Adult interview				*	Y12051.00
Number of Young Adult interviews completed				*	Y12052.00
Number of Child survey years w/ data available for R				*	Y12053.00
Young Adult sampling weight ²	Y03565.00	Y06507.00	Y09469.00	Y11923.00	Y14350.00
Revised Young Adult sampling weight ²	Y03565.01	Y06507.01	Y09469.01	Y11923.01	
Age of Young Adult (in years) at interview date	Y03424.00	Y06776.00	Y09748.00	Y11924.00	Y14343.00
Age of Young Adult (in years) December 31 of survey year		Y06777.00	Y09749.00	Y11925.00	Y14344.00
Date of CAPI interview – Day	Y00002.00	Y03901.00	Y09337.00	Y11805.00	Y14211.00
Date of CAPI interview – Month	Y00002.01	Y03901.01	Y09337.01	Y11805.01	Y14211.01
Date of CAPI interview – Year	Y00002.02	Y03901.02	Y09337.02	Y11805.02	Y14211.02
Type of Residence R lives in, Constructed	Y03838.00	Y06786.00	Y09754.00	Y11929.00	Y14351.00
Region of Residence		Y06787.00	Y09755.00	Y11930.00	Y14352.00
Is Residence Urban or Rural?	Y03840.12	Y06798.08	Y09757.08	Y12046.00	Y14476.00
Is Residence in SMSA?	Y03840.13	Y06798.09	Y09757.09	Y12047.00	Y14477.00
Number of household members in HH of R		Y06783.00	Y09751.00	Y11926.00	Y14345.00
Official Marital Status		Y06784.00	Y09752.00	Y11927.00	Y14346.00
Cohabitation Status of R		Y06785.00	Y09753.00	Y11928.00	Y14347.00
Has R ever reported cohabitation?				*	Y12054.00
Month began first cohabitation				*	Y12055.00
Year began first cohabitation				*	Y12056.00
Has R ever reported a first marriage?				*	Y12057.00
Month first marriage began				*	Y12058.00
Year first marriage began				*	Y12059.00
Number of children ever born				*	Y12110.00
Age of R at first birth				*	Y12111.00

NOTE: The items in this list focus on the current data round and constitute a small subset of the total number of variables on the NLSY79 Child & YA files.

* These variables have common reference numbers across survey years.

¹ Available only on the Geocode release.

² The 2002 weights were constructed using an updated algorithm. This updated algorithm was also used to create revised weights for earlier survey rounds. Please see the discussion of revised weights in Chapter 1.

Two key identification codes – that of the Young Adult and that of the mother – are provided. Any child who has not yet aged up into the Young Adult sample, or who is ineligible for fielding, or who has been fielded but not interviewed, will have a missing value (-7) on these two ID variables. Only children who have ever been interviewed as Young Adults (N=4698) have valid values. These variables are provided for users who want to quickly restrict their sample to ever-interviewed Young Adults. The ever-interviewed Young Adults also have an updated date of birth (month and year only on the public release; day available only on the Geocode release – see below), gender, and race based on mother’s racial/ethnic cohort from the 1978 screener (for self-identified race and ethnicity, see Section 2 above).

Beginning with the 2000 release, three interview status variables have been provided. The first of these variables is the year of most recent Young Adult survey (Y12051.00). This variable is designed to allow users to quickly identify when data for a non-year-specific variable would have been pulled. For example, if a respondent was last interviewed in 1994, only information from that year would have been available to use in constructing variables such as ever cohabited or ever reported a first marriage.

The second of these variables is the number of Young Adult interviews completed (Y12052.00). This variable will allow users to assess how many respondent they would have multiple time points for given measures. Users are reminded, however, that there are a variety of factors that influence a respondent’s value on this variable, such as when the respondent aged up to the sample, during what years there were age or other restriction applied to the fielded sample, and whether or not the respondent was actually interviewed in a given year. There are two flags per survey year, located in the CHILD BACKGROUND area of interest, allowing the user to identify whether a respondent was eligible to be interviewed as a Young Adult and whether or not a Young Adult interview occurred (see Table 2.5 in Chapter 2).

The last of these interview status variables is the number of Child survey years where the respondent has at least some data available (Y12053.00). Users should be aware that the Child survey consists of two or three instruments, depending on the age of the child, and some respondents may have data for only one of these instruments in a given survey year (See Chapter 2 for greater detail on the Child survey instruments). This variable, as with the number of Young Adult interviews, is provided to help users gain a quick portrait of data availability. (See Chapter 1, Table 1.6, which shows these two variables, combined with age as of December 31, 2000, and race to provide a portrait of the availability of inputs from multiple time points for Young Adults.)

In addition to the variables discussed so far, there are additional key variables that users may find helpful. For each survey year, there are sampling weights for interviewed Young Adults. Beginning in 2002, the algorithm for computing sampling weight for children and young adults was updated. Therefore, for the 1994-2000 survey years, two sampling weight variables are available for each year, the originally released sampling weight and a revised weight using the new algorithm. For 2002, only weights constructed on the new algorithm are available (see discussion of sampling weights in Chapter 1). Please note that in 2000, four respondents who were part of the pool of oversample cases that were not fielded were

inadvertently interviewed. For these four respondents, their interview data are included in the public release, but their sampling weights are set to zero.

Also listed on Table 3.8 is the CAPI interview date for each survey round, as well as a small number of constructed variables available for 1996 through 2000. These variables include age in years at interview date (also available for 1994), age at December 31 of the survey year, type of residence R lives in (also available for 1994), region of residence, number of household members, official marital status and cohabitation status.

Beginning in 2000, a series of constructed variables concerning relationships and fertility is being made available for users. Most of these variables are “yearless” in that they are constructed for all young adults regardless of when they were last interviewed as Young Adults. Y12051.00, discussed above, quickly allows users to identify for each respondent when these variables were last updated. This series of constructed variables includes flags for whether the respondent has ever reported a cohabitation or a first marriage, as well as month and year began first marriage and first cohabitation, if applicable.

The remaining constructed variables pertain to the fertility history of the respondent and are too numerous to list in Table 3.8. Two – the number of children ever born and the age of R at first birth – have been listed. The remaining variables are child-specific. For each child the respondent has reported having, there are cumulative variables for month and year of birth (day available only on the Geocode release, see below), gender, and, if applicable, date of death for that child. These data have been carefully compared across years, and discrepancies have been resolved as far as the data allow. In addition to these variables, there are also year-specific usual residence variables for each child. Users should note that these year-specific variables are created only where appropriate. For example, for fourth children, there are variables for usual residence in 1994, 1996, 2000, and 2002. There is no variable for usual residence of the fourth child in 1998 because in 1998 an age cap of age 21 at the date of interview was in place and no interviewed respondent had more than three children. Similarly, the first residence variable for a seventh child is for 2000, because that is the first round in which a seventh child was reported. The first residence variable for an eighth child is for 2002.

Geocode Data

Beginning with the 2000 data release, the decision was made to create a set of geocode data files for the Young Adults that was comparable to those created each round for the main Youth. A full set of geocode variables was created for all Young Adult years. This section discusses the creation of these variables that are available on the NLSY79 Young Adults geocode data files. These supplemental data files provide selected variables from the *County And City Data Books* from various years along with geographic variables from the NLSY79 Young Adult survey data file.

The county and state of residence for each Young Adult respondent for each survey year were matched with the county and state variables on the *County And City Data Book* data files for both 1988 and 1994, and selected county-level or SMSA-level environmental variables were extracted from those files and included on the geocode data files. For Young Adults living in their mother’s household, the county and state of residence were drawn from the mother’s

NLSY79 data if the mother was interviewed for that year. For Young Adults not living with their mothers or whose mothers were noninterviews in given years, county and state of residence were coded from the YA survey data. In cases where the mother's data were missing or incomplete, YA survey data were used to provide accurate codes wherever possible.

Users should note that a decision was made to extract geocode variables for all five Young Adult survey years from only the 1988 and 1994 *County And City Data Book* data files. This decision means that the 1994 and 1996 Young Adult geocode variables are *not directly comparable* to those of their mothers, whose geocode variables were extracted from the 1983 and 1988 *County And City Data Book* data files.

The *County And City Data Book* data files were prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Related printed matter for each of these data files can be found in the *County And City Data Book* for the specified year, which is also published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The *Geocode Codebook* for the Young Adult provides the following detailed information on each geocode variable: its reference number, variable description, coding information, frequency distribution, file name, variable name, and source of the variable. Included are references to pertinent attachments and appendices from the *NLSY79 Geocode Codebook Supplement* providing supplementary coding and variable creation procedures. Variables are grouped within the geocode codebook according to the year with YA GEOCODE 1994 variables followed by YA GEOCODE 1996 and so forth. **Note:** Hardcopy versions of the geocode codebook and numeric index are not provided to CD-ROM users since the disc software allows users to generate their own documentation.

For greater detail on the geocoding processes used in the NLSY79 main file across survey rounds, users are encouraged to review the *NLSY79 Geocode Codebook Supplement*. The *NLSY79 Geocode Codebook Supplement* is available electronically on the geocode CD under the NLSY79 documentation (users must unzip and install the NLSY79 data to have this documentation available) or as a hard copy from NLS User Services and has several appendices and attachments, including:

- *Appendix 10: Geocode Documentation* provides background information on how the original 1979-1982 geocode tape and subsequent updates were created and how those data were modified to form the 1979-2002 release.
- *Attachment 100: Geographic Regions* provides a listing of those states, which comprise each of the four regions, used in such variables as region of residence and south-non-south place of birth/place of residence at age 14.
- *Attachment 102: State Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Codes*, which are used to code respondents' state of residence. (The expanded listing in this section is numbered separately from the remainder of this document.)
- *Attachment 104: SMSA Codes* contains the coding information utilized to classify SMSA, MSA, CMSA, PMSA of residence at each interview date.
- *Attachment 105: Addendum to FICE Codes* contains the supplementary identification numbers for those colleges and universities not listed in the Education of Directory Colleges and Universities (1981-1982 and 1982-1983 supplement) published by the

National Center for Educational Statistics. (Section F of this attachment is numbered separately from the remainder of this document.)

- *Appendix 7: Unemployment Rates* provides an explanation of how the continuous and collapsed versions of the variable, unemployment rate for labor market of current residence were created.

1994-2002 Geocode Data File Creation Procedure

The software package Maptitude (V4.2) was used in the creation of the NLSY79 Young Adults 1994-2002 geocode data files for Young Adults who could not be matched to previous mother data (see NLSY79 Geocode Codebook Supplement for greater detail). This program links respondent address data to standard geographic information such as the FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standards) codes for state and county. Three graduated matching methods were applied, depending on the quality of the address data available.

1. An automated match was done between the respondent's locating address data and the Maptitude database. Address records with matching street segments were assigned the latitude and longitude of the location. In some cases, addresses had to be cleaned before they could be matched by the Maptitude program. Cleaning involves steps such as standardizing the address format, correcting obvious misspellings, identifying apartment numbers and locating them in the correct field, etc. It does not include any changes that might result in a change in the actual address location.
2. For some addresses, the procedure outlined in Step #1 failed to produce a match between the respondent's address data and the Maptitude database. In these cases, geocode staff used the Maptitude program to locate the correct street. If the street number could be located along this street, the latitude and longitude were assigned. However, some streets in the Maptitude database do not include information about street numbers. If this is the case, the address is manually located in the center of the street. The street is then classified as either a short street or a long street. Long streets cross Census tract or block group boundaries while short streets do not. As a result, the level of certainty about geographical information is much higher for short streets than for long streets.
3. Addresses unmatched by either of the first two procedures were assigned latitude and longitude coordinates according to a 5-digit zip centroid. A centroid is essentially the midpoint of a zip code area. The geographic information is less certain for respondents located using the zip centroid method.

Because some Young Adults had latitude and longitude derived from Maptitude, while others had these data matched from NLSY79 records for their mothers from years when different systems were used, a quality of match variable equivalent to GEO10 in the NLSY79 geocode data is not being released. Researchers who need to determine the level of certainty for the respondent's geographic data may contact CHRR User Services for further details.

Supplementary Created Geocode Variables

Birthdate Variables. Data indicating the day of birth of the respondent, his or her parents, children, and other household members are included on the geocode CD-ROM. Month and year of birth variables appear in the public use data set. The reference numbers and question names for the day of birth variables correspond to those used in the main data set for month and year of birth. For example, the 2002 variables DATE OF BIRTH - MONTH and DATE OF BIRTH - YEAR (Y06392.01 and Y06392.02) released in the Child/Young Adult public data file contain information about the respondent's birth month and year. The corresponding variable released only in the geocode data file is DATE OF BIRTH - DAY (Y06392.00) and provides information about the respondent's day of birth. These variables can be found in the YA COMMON KEY VARIABLES area of interest.

College Variables. In all four Young Adult rounds, information about the name and location of the college or university that the respondent was currently or most recently attending were asked. Included in the geocode variables for each year are Federal Interagency Committee on Education (FICE) codes for these colleges or universities as well as FIPS codes for the state where they are located. Additionally, beginning in 2000, respondents who were either seniors in high school or in their first year of college were asked about what colleges and/or universities they had applied to. For these colleges and universities, FICE codes are available.

Beginning in 2002, the codes provided for colleges applied to and college attended are UNITID codes from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) database. The UNITID code is a change from previous rounds, where the reported code is the FICE code. A crosswalk between FICE codes and UNITID codes can be found in the IPEDS database. For cases where a UNITID code was unavailable and a FICE code was, the FICE code is provided. For cases where neither a FICE code nor a UNITID code could be found for a given college or university, a code of 999999 was assigned.

Child Support Variables. In all five Young Adult rounds, information about the state in which child support agreements were reached was collected. Included in the geocode variables for each year is the FIPS code for these states

Missing Data

Following the same convention as the NLSY79 Child and Young Adult public release data, the missing data value for all items on the geocode data files is -7. The -7 values indicate either a non-interview for a given year or respondents who have a missing value in the data for any variables from the *County And City Data Book* for the following reasons:

1. Respondents who were in the military or who had an APO address;
2. Respondents who were residing outside of the United States;
3. Respondents whose state or county codes could not be determined.
4. Respondents who reside in a county or SMSA/MSA for which there is missing data for that geographic location from the *County And City Data Book* for that specific item.
5. Respondents who do not reside in an SMSA for any survey year 1994-2002 will be missing SMSA level environmental variables for that year.

6. Respondents whose state, county, and zip codes for any survey year 1994-2002 do not lead to an unambiguous SMSA designation. This generally applies only to a small number of respondents living in New England.

In the 1994-2002 geocode data file, for 1988 and 1994 metropolitan statistical area variables with NECMA codes, respondents living in the New England states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont were not treated any differently than those residing elsewhere. The addition of the “Record Type” variable in the 1988 and the 1994 *County And City Data Book* data files allows the user to designate these cases as missing and remove them from the analysis, without having to conduct a county-by-county or state-by-state determination of NECMA/non-NECMA status.

Use of the Geocode Files

Finally, we have a few suggestions concerning the use of these NLSY79 Young Adult geographic data files. Firstly, the data file and the accompanying documentation should be used in conjunction with the printed versions of the 1988 and 1994 *County and City Data Book* and the IPEDS codes so that researchers have complete information regarding variable descriptions and coding idiosyncrasies. Secondly, users should familiarize themselves not only with this document, but also with the *NLSY79 Geocode Codebook Supplement*. Finally, the data should not be used in any fashion that would endanger the confidentiality of any sample member. To use these data, users must sign a written licensing agreement consenting to protect respondent confidentiality and to other conditions; agree not to make, or allow to be made, unauthorized copies of the geocode file; and further agree to indemnify the Center for Human Resource Research for all claims arising from misuse of the file.